

VZCZCXRO3528  
RR RUEHGR  
DE RUEHPO #0534 2741732  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 011732Z OCT 07  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9725  
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAO/AMCONSUL CURACAO 1176  
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 2043  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1630  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1606  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 000534

SIPDIS

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR -- JACKIE ROSHOLT, INR -- BOB CARHART, INR -- RAY  
MILEFSKY  
COMMERCE FOR MICHELLE BROOKS  
OSD FOR JUAN CARDENAS  
SOUTHCOM FOR J2, J5

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PBTS](#) [EINV](#) [EPET](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NS](#)

SUBJECT: BOUTERSE CALLS FOR MASS PROTESTS AFTER MARITIME BORDER  
DECISION

REF: PARAMARIBO 529

11. (SBU) Summary. Desi Bouterse, former military strongman and chairman of the National Democratic Party (NDP), is attempting to mobilize mass protests against the Venetiaan government on October 1 during President Venetiaan's annual State of the Republic speech. These protests are likely Bouterse's bid to divert public attention from the upcoming 8 December murders trial, in which Bouterse is a main suspect. End Summary.

12. (U) Taking advantage of the disappointing outcome conveyed in the September 20 announcement of the maritime border resolution by the UN International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), on September 26 former military dictator and chairman of the opposition National Democratic Party (NDP) Desi Bouterse called on the Surinamese population to stage protests against the Venetiaan government on October 1 as part of his "mission to overthrow the Venetiaan government." The protests are to take place at Independence Square, across from the National Assembly where President Venetiaan will deliver his annual State of the Republic speech.

13. (U) Bouterse cited the Surinamese government's handling of the maritime border dispute as evidence "President Venetiaan is incapable of leading the country." He blamed the Venetiaan government for an increase in crime and corruption since coming to power and alleged the country is "on sale" since the Venetiaan government gives away land and natural resources in negotiations with multinational companies.

14. (SBU) Comment: Bouterse's plan for an October 1 protest on Independence Square is a strategic move, as President Venetiaan will deliver his annual State of the Republic speech in the National Assembly, just across from the square, on that date. Bouterse likely wants to divert attention away from the upcoming 8 December murders trial, which is scheduled to begin on November 30, and in which he is a prime suspect. Bouterse may well attract a large crowd on October 1, as many people are frustrated with the government's policies concerning land distribution, education and housing. Despite the bluster, however, Bouterse is unlikely to succeed in sending the President home.

SCHREIBER HUGHES